

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 OES-07 EB-08 COME-00 AID-05
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: WMO XF SA
SUBJECT: WEATHER MODIFICATION STUDY FOR SAUDI ARABIA

1. MISSION HAS LEARNED THAT DR AL-GAIN OF THE SAUDI MET DEPARTMENT WAS IN GENEVA JULY 21 TO DISCUSS A PROPOSAL THEY HAVE MADE TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL WMO FOR WEATHER MODIFICATION STUDIES. THE SAUDIS HAVE PROPOSED A GRANT OF 1.7 MILLION DOLLARS TO WMO FOR THE FIRST YEAR'S PROGRAM, MOSTLY CONCENTRATING ON PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF CLOUDS SYSTEMS OVER SAUDI ARABIA. AN INITIAL VISIT HAS ALREADY BEEN MADE BY A WMO CONSULTANT, JACK WARNER (AUSTRALIA) TO EXPLORE THE FEASIBILITY OF SUCH EXPERIMENTS AND POSSIBLE SITES FOR CARRYING THEM OUT. HIS REPORT IS GENERALLY FAVORABLE AND HAS JUST BEEN FORWARDED TO THE SAUDIS.
 2. IN ADDITION, THEY HAVE ASKED THE WMO TO PREPARE AN INITIAL OUTLINE PLAN AND TO ASSIST IN THE PRESENTATION OF THIS PLAN TO SAUDI OFFICIALS IN JIDDA LATE IN AUGUST. IT IS EXPECTED THAT MR EUGENE BOLLAY (USA), DIRECTOR OF THE WMO WEATHER MODIFICATION PLANNING GROUP, PLUS AN AIRCRAFT INSTRUMENTATION SPECIALIST WILL ASSIST WITH THESE PRESENTATIONS.
 3. ON THE BASIS OF THE SECRETARIAT'S FIRST SURVEY OF POTENTIAL SOURCES OF EQUIPMENT (AIRCRAFT) AND TECHNO-
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LOGICAL EXPERIENCE, US EXPERTS AND EQUIPMENT WOULD LIKELY BE RECOMMENDED FOR USE IN THE EXPERIMENTS. A MUCH FIRMER VIEW ON THESE PROSPECTS WILL BE AVAILABLE AFTER THE TALKS IN JIDDA NEXT MONTH. UNTIL THIS PROJECT HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY AGREED, MISSION ASKS THAT INFORMATION IN THIS CABLE NOT BE DISCUSSED WITH SAUDI ARABIANS.

4. THIS PROJECT IS INDICATIVE OF THE GROWING ROLE OF WMO IN ADVISING AND MANAGING PROJECTS FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MODERN WEATHER OBSERVING AND COMMUNICATION SYSTEM FOR ALGIERS (MORE THAN \$10 MILLION HAVE BEEN AUTHORIZED TO WMO FOR THIS PROJECT) IS A FURTHER EXAMPLE. THE MISSION WILL KEEP THE DEPARTMENT INFORMED OF OTHER PROJECTS THAT MAY BE SET UP, AS THEY MAY AFFECT NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND BILATERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.

VANDEN HEUVEL

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